

◆ Recycling Shop Towels

In New Mexico shop towels may be considered hazardous waste if they contain solvent. The State of New Mexico regulation states that wipers or rags are handled in the following manner:

1. If a **spent wiper contains a listed hazardous waste or exhibits a hazardous waste characteristic**, then the wiper will be regulated as a hazardous waste.
2. **By Laundering wipers you are recycling and laundering is considered a form of reclamation.** Wipers that are stored on-site prior to shipment off-site or reclaiming must be managed, transported, and stored in compliance with New Mexico Hazardous Waste Regulation.

Laundries are issued wastewater discharge permits by the City of Albuquerque, therefore, most laundries' *pretreat* the wastewater from their process before discharging it to the City's collection system. Recently, the City lowered its limits for *Oil & Grease*, thereby encouraging laundries to look at different methods for reducing pollutants. One of those methods is **Source Control**. Source Control is an **opportunity to reduce or eliminate waste at the source**. Source Control can include

improvements to **housekeeping, material substitution, recovery, reuse and recycling**. Please consider the following tips, they may help save money, reduce waste(s) and keep costs down.

◆ Reduce Waste

- Use the least amount of solvent, oil or lube necessary to do the job.
- Use a pump can or squirt bottles to reduce the amount of cleaners used.
- Dampen a rag with solvent, rather than directly applying solvent to the part.
- Use the mildest effective cleaner for each task.
- Use quick-evaporating solvents only for tasks requiring their use.
- Separate different types of used solvents to maximize reuse/recycling possibilities.
- Select solvents with low volatile organic chemical (VOC content).
- Use cleaners with high flashpoints (above 140 degrees Fahrenheit).
- Require suppliers to take back unused portions of sample cleaners.
- Wring or drain shop towels to recover solvent, oil, or grease before laundering.
- Use recovered solvent for dirtiest cleaning operations
- If excess liquid collects at the bottom of the drum where rags are collected, decant into a waste solvent collection drum; manage the liquid appropriately.



Reducing waste, may help cut costs.

◆ Treat Towels Kindly

☹ Do Not

- Air dry soiled shop towels.
- Pick up spills of hazardous liquids with towels.
- Dispose of excess chemicals by pouring onto towels.
- Put towels with free liquids in collection system.
- Allow towels in the drum to contact excess liquid.
- Pre-wash or launder shop towels on your own.

◆ More Opportunities.....

Often employees may spill something and automatically reach for a towel. Using towels for spills may not be the best way to handle spills.

Use absorbent to clean up spills instead.

- Many companies recycle absorbent for fuel blending.
- Absorbent contaminated with hazardous materials should **never** be landfilled.
- Training employees to handle spills properly is a requirement of OSHA (hazardous communications) training, and will reduce waste generated by spills.
- Some trade associations and government agencies offer seminars pertaining to handling spills.

◆ Controlling Spills

Keep all containers covered to prevent evaporation and spillage.

Vacuum up as much liquid as possible before using an absorbent or rag to clean up spills. Use a squeegee and dust pan to clean up and recover nonflammable liquid.

Every time major spills occur, write down when the spill occurred and why. The information can be used to identify spill prevention options.

Handle all fluids carefully to avoid spillage and keep absorbent materials nearby to quickly clean up any spills before they reach storm sewers or drains.

Reduce the distance between waste collection points and storage areas.

SOURCES

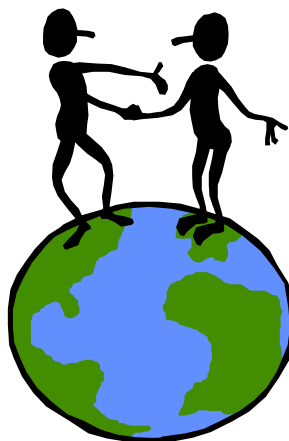
†Adapted from the Green And Profitable Printing National Satellite Video Conference, Course Notebook. Content developed by the University of Wisconsin-Extension, Solid & Hazardous Waste Education Center in collaboration with the Graphic Arts Technical Foundation for the Printers' National Environmental Assistance Center.

Adapted from **Writing a Waste Reduction Plan: A workbook for motor vehicle maintenance facilities**. The University of Tennessee Center for Industrial Services Municipal Technical Advisory Service and Tennessee Department of Environment and Conservation

†**New Mexico Hazardous Waste Management Regulations (20NMAC 4.1), which adopt by reference, with a few exceptions, 40 CFR Parts 260-270.**

City of Albuquerque Information Resources

Pollution Prevention Info.	873-7004
City Hazardous Waste Info.	768-2600
State Hazardous Waste Info.	827-1558
Recycling	761-8100



Working together for a better environment!

*This pamphlet was produced by the City of Albuquerque's
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Visit our Webpage at <http://www.cabq.gov>

Manage Shop Towels Properly

Reduce Waste & Save Money

